

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 3, 17, and 18.

Please amend claims 1 and 8 as follows.

SB
C1
B1
1. (Twice Amended) An electrical connector, comprising:

a housing;

a plurality of surface mount contacts; and

areas of reduced rigidity in the peripheral wall of the housing, each of the areas of reduced rigidity comprising one of a notch and a slot and located at positions generally furthest from a neutral point of the connector and extending through the distal end of the peripheral wall of the housing.

Sub
D2
B2
8. (Twice Amended) A housing for an electrical connector, comprising:

a frame; and

areas of reduced rigidity in the frame located only at positions generally furthest from a neutral point of the connector.

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-8, and 10-21 were rejected. Claims 1 and 8 have been amended. Claims 3, 17, and 18 have been canceled and their features have been incorporated into claim 1. No new matter has been added.